

Introduced by Senator AlpertFebruary 13, 2003

An act to amend Sections 2102 and 2104 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to minors.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 215, as introduced, Alpert. Youth mentoring and development programs.

Existing law declares that it is the goal of the Legislature to give every young person in California access to a quality mentoring relationship. Existing law defines "mentoring" as a specified relationship to help younger at-risk persons as they go through life.

This bill would state that, to the extent possible, all state departments and offices serving children and youth should work closely with the State of California Workforce Investment Board and its State Youth Council, as specified. The bill would delete the limitation that the mentoring relationship is limited to at-risk persons.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no. State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 2102 of the Welfare and Institutions
- 2 Code is amended to read:
- 3 2102. It is the goal of the Legislature in enacting this chapter
- 4 to do all of the following:
- 5 (a) To give every young person in California access to a quality
- 6 mentoring relationship. This shall be accomplished by sustaining
- 7 or growing the state's resources under the auspices of the



1 Governor's Mentoring Partnership, to the extent those resources
2 are available. The Legislature recognizes the efforts of state
3 departments who have supported local mentor programs under the
4 Governor's Mentoring Partnership, including the State
5 Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, the California
6 Conservation Corps, the Department of the Youth Authority, the
7 Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism, the Department
8 of Community Services and Development, the State Department
9 of Education, the State Department of Health Services, the
10 Department of Justice, the Office of the Secretary for Education,
11 and the Office of Criminal Justice Planning. *To the extent possible,*
12 *all state departments and offices serving children and youth should*
13 *work closely with the State of California Workforce Investment*
14 *Board and its State Youth Council in their efforts to achieve "All*
15 *Youth—One System."* This base of support shall be sustained or
16 increased predicated upon the performance outcomes in
17 successfully addressing the four risk factors, and in ensuring that
18 youth are problem free, and fully prepared for the responsibilities
19 and challenges of adulthood.

20 (b) To direct consideration towards identifying opportunities
21 for increased private sector investment in the support and
22 expansion of mentoring.

23 (c) To encourage state agencies and departments to collaborate
24 to build youth developmental assets.

25 SEC. 2. Section 2104 of the Welfare and Institutions Code is
26 amended to read:

27 2104. For purposes of this chapter, the following definitions
28 apply:

29 (a) ~~"At-risk youth" means an individual under 21 years of age~~
30 ~~whose environment increases their chance of academic failure,~~
31 ~~alcohol and other drug use, involvement in the criminal justice~~
32 ~~system, or teen pregnancy.~~

33 ~~(b)~~ "Mentoring" means a relationship over a period of time in
34 which caring and concerned adults and older youth provide
35 support, guidance, and help to younger ~~at-risk~~ persons as they go
36 through life.

37 ~~(c)~~

38 (b) "Mentor-rich environments" are environments that create
39 many opportunities for young people to interact with an array of

1 caring adults and where youth feel respected, connected, and
2 affirmed.

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